

Amendments to the drawings:

Attached hereto is a replacement sheet containing Figs. 1 and 2, which replaces the original drawing sheet containing Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 1 has been amended to add labels to the boxes.

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated January 12, 2006, which set a three-month period for response. Filed herewith is a Request for a One-month Extension of Time, making this amendment due by May 12, 2006.

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the drawings, specification, and claims 1-3 were objected to for various informalities. Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,568,919 to Muggli et al.

In the present amendment, the specification has been amended to add standard section headings and to delete reference to the claims. The abstract also was amended to address the objection.

The drawings were amended to add the requested labels to Fig. 1.

Claims 1-2 were amended to address the stated objections/rejections under Section 112, second paragraph.

Claim 1 also was amended to more clearly define the features of the present invention over the cited patent to Muggli. The Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 1-4 define a patentably distinct set of features that is not disclosed by Muggli.

Muggli discloses a monitoring system, in which a plurality of measuring or detecting and signaling stations is series-connected to a central signal station.

Each of the detecting and signaling stations transmits information about its state (for example, standby, warning, alarm, or malfunction) to the central station.

Muggli does not disclose means in the central station for determining a distance between the central station and the modules. Muggli discloses that the modules generate a current pulse of distinct amplitude and length. However, this reference does not disclose that the central station determines a distance based on this pulse. Instead, Muggli discloses that the current amplitude and the length of the time interval characterize the alarm state (see Muggli, column 7, lines 1-3). Muggli also does not suggest using this pulse for determining a distance.

In addition, Muggli does not disclose that an energy store is charged in the central station. According to Fig. 11 of this reference, the central station consists of resistors, transistors, and integrated circuits. Muggli provides no suggestion of using an energy store like a capacitor.

Further, the Muggli patent does not disclose or suggest that the means for determining the distance evaluate the charging time of the energy store.

Because Muggli fails to disclose all of the features of independent claim 1, the rejection under Section 102 must be withdrawn. For a prior art reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each and every element of the claim with sufficient clarity to prove its existence in the prior art. **Motorola, Inc. v. Interdigital Tech. Corp.**, 43 USPQ 2d 1481, 1490 (Fed. Cir. 1997).


For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4 are patentable over the cited art. The Applicant further requests

withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 and reconsideration of the claims as herein amended.

In light of the foregoing amendments and arguments in support of patentability, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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